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PAGE 01 STATE 190159

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QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5044

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: CSCE: MEETING WITH SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD DEPUTY
FONMIN KOVALEV.

SUMMARY: SOVIET CSCE DELEGATION HEAD DEPUTY FONMIN
KOVALEV, ACCOMPANIED BY MENDELVITCH, CALLED ON VEST
EVENING SEPT 21 AT KOVALE'S REQUEST. KOVALEV
STRESSED IMPORTANCE USSR ATTACHES TO EARLY COMPLETION
OF CSCE AND STATED THAT SOVIETS PREPARED TO MAKE
PROGRESS IN HUMAN CONTACTS AREA PROVIDED THIS IS
DONE UNDER UMBRELLA OF RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND
NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 190159

1. KOVALEV BEGAN BY CITING BREZHNEV SPEECH IN SOFIA

AS EVIDENCE OF IMPORTANCE USSR ATTACHES TO CSCE AND ESPECIALLY NEED FOR COMPLETION OF STAGES II AND III THIS YEAR. SOVIET CSCE DELEGATION WOULD PROCEED FROM THOUGHTS OF BREZHNEV SPEECH. VIST NOTED US ALSO WANTED CONFERENCE TO MOVE AHEAD EXPEDITIOUSLY BUT SAID ALL SUBJECT AREAS, INCLUDING HUMAN CONTACTS, SHOULD PROGRESS EQUALLY. FROM CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS HE HOPED INFORMAL SOLUTION WOULD EMERGE TO PERMIT CONFERENCE SUBCOMMITTEES TO MOVE ON FROM PROCEDURAL TO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS.

2. KOVALEV EMPHASIZED SOVIET DESIRE TO DEVELOP DETENTE AND WILLINGNESS TO MAKE PROGRESS ON ALL AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDING HUMAN CONTACTS. ALTHOUGH SOVIETS CONSIDER QUESTIONS OF SECURITY MORE IMPORTANT, KOVALEV RECOGNIZED MANY COUNTRIES PUT STRESS ON HUMAN CONTACTS. HE CITED BREZHNEV SPEECH IN ALMA ATA AND SAID EXCHANGE OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS IS NATURAL IN A PERIOD OF DETENTE IMPORTANT THING FOR SOVIETS IN THIS AREA IS PRICIPLE OF RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, LAWS AND CUSTOMS, AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IF THESE PRICIPLES ARE RESPECTED IT WILL BE MUCH EASIER TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS ON SPECIFIED ISSUES. ESSENCE OF SOVIET APPROACH IS TO FIT SPECIFIC ITEMS UNDER AN UMBREALLA WHICH MAKES PRICIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE CRYSTAL CLEAR.

3. VEST INDICATED THAT SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO MAKE PROGRESS IN HUMAN CONTACTS WAS INTERESTING AND ENCOURAGING. U.S. AT HELSINKI HAD TAKEN LEAD TO RECOGNIZE ROLE OF SOVEREIGNTY. EXACT DEFINITION OF "UMBRELLA" HAD BEEN DIFFICULT AT HELSINKI AND WOULD BE SAME IN GENEVA. PUBLIC SUPPORT IS NECESSARY FOR ANY FOREIGN POLICY AND CURRENT PUBLIC INTEREST IN HUMAN CONTACTS AREA WILL NECESSITATE GREAT STEADFASTNESS TO ENSURE THAT OVERALL DETENTE IS NOT UNDERCUT. US AND USSR MUST TRY TO UNDERSTAND INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN EACH OTHER'S COUNTRIES AND THEIR RESONANCES IF DETENTE IS TO CONTINUE TO HAVE NECESSARY PUBLIC SUPPORT. PROBLEM IS ONE OF TRUST, ESPECIALLY FOR SOME WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

4. KOVALEV AGREED THAT TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 190159

IMPORTANT. IF WESTERN COUNTRIES UNDERSTAND THAT SOVIETS NEED PRICIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE, PROGRESS WILL BE EASIER. MENDELEVITCH ADDED: "THE LESS AMBIGUITY IN THE PRINCIPLES, THE LESS AMBIGUITY THERE WILL BE ON SPECIFIC ISSUES". VEST SAID IT WAS QUESTION OF CART AND HORSE. WESTERN COUNTRIES WOULD NOT AGREE TO UMBREALLA FIRST; HOWEVER WE MIGHT, AS AT HELSINKI, FIND TACTICAL COMPROMISE TO TAKLE BOTH IN PARALLEL. KOVALEVE SAID THE SOVIETS WOULD CONSIDER THIS APPROACH

AND WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH THEIR ALLIES.

5. KOVALEV HOPED PROCEDURAL DISCUSSIONS WOULD END IMMEDIATELY. HE SAID SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY QUESTION WHICH MAY BE INTRODUCED BUT PREFER TO ORGANIZE CSCE WORK ON THE BASIS OF THE HELSINKI RECOMMENDATIONS. VEST REPLIED THAT HERE AGAIN IT WAS A QUESTION OF BALANCE BETWEEN WESTERN COUNTRIES WHO ARE APPREHANSIVE ABOUT MOVING TO DRAFTING STAGE TOO QUICKLY AND SOVIET DESIRE TO AVOID UNNECESSARY DELAYS. PAST WEEK'S EXCHANGES HAVE CLARIFIED POSITIONS AND HAVE LAID BASIS FOR LESS FORMAL SOLUTIONS NEXT WEEK, WHICH SHOULD ALLOW CONFERENCE WORK TO PROCEED. U.S. WAS ENCOURAGING ITS FRIENDS IN THIS DIRECTION.

6. IN CLOSING VEST AND KOVALEV AGREED TO BE IN TOUCH INFORMALLY WHENEVER A PROBLEM AROSE. BASSIN UNQUOTE RUSH

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